



Courtesy of the Library of  
Michigan, a division of the  
Department of History, Arts and  
Libraries

# Michigan Vital Records Research

Public Act 194 of 1867 established that Michigan Townships and cities begin taking an “annual assessment” of birth and deaths in Michigan. Public Act 194 also instituted a statewide registration for Michigan marriages. Prior to April 5, 1867 marriage records or any additional vital records collected were maintained by the individual counties. In 1897 the Office of the State Registrar (now the Vital Records Division) began a statewide registration for divorce.

## Records at the Library of Michigan from the Michigan Department of Community Health:

### Births

Index (Microfilm F 565 .I5 1960) .....1867 - 1915

### Marriages

Index (Microfilm F 565 .I54 1960) .....1867 - 1921

Index (Microfilm F 565 .I54 1950) .....1950 - 1969

Returns (Microfilm F 565 .I54) .....1867 - 1925

### Divorces

Index (Microfilm F 565 .D58) .....1897 - 1969

Summary (Microfilm F 565 .D57 1897) .....1897 - 1922

### Deaths

Index (Microfilm F 565 .I53 1960) .....1867 - 1914

Index (available on Ancestry Plus) .....1971 - 1996

Returns (Microfilm F565 .I53 1868) .....1867 - 1897

## To obtain other Michigan records:

Contact the Department of Community Health, Division of Vital Records and Health Services,  
Vital Records Requests, P.O. Box 30721, 3423 Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing MI 48909 or  
telephone 517-335-8656 (voicemail), 517-355-8666 (business hours).

Forms to ordering records from the Department of Community Health are available on the World  
Wide Web at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>

## To obtain records from other states or other countries

The following books at the Genealogy Desk may be of assistance:

- International Vital Records Handbook by Thomas Jay Kemp (CS 42.7 .K46)
- County Courthouse Book by Elizabeth Petty Bentley (KF 8700 .A19 B46)